

New Mexico. At Fort Union National Monument, visitors can learn about life at this frontier outpost during the early days of the American settlement of the West. As a key stopover point for travelers along the Old Santa Fe Trail, Fort Union was witness to countless expeditions, Indian raids, and commercial gatherings during its short but storied existence. Today, the venerable post is a shadow of its former grandeur, but even in ruins, it stands as an impressive memorial to the countless soldiers of the frontier army who passed through.

On June 28, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law legislation authorizing the U.S. Department of Interior to acquire the site and remaining structures of Fort Union for national monument purposes. With strong backing from the New Mexico State Legislature and Governor Edwin Mechem, U.S. Representative John Dempsey and U.S. Senator Clinton P. Anderson introduced the bills that ultimately created the present day Fort Union National Monument. Their foresight and hard work all those decades ago are worth remembering today.

Few places today inspire imagination about the American frontier experience as does Fort Union National Monument. Located in the Mora Valley in northeastern New Mexico, the 720-acre National Park Service domain contains an array of cultural and natural resources. Its principal features—the ruins of the Santa Fe Trail, the ruins of the Fort Union military post, and the dazzling prairie scenery—daily attract travelers from around the world.

Fort Union was established in 1851 by Lieutenant Colonel Edwin V. Sumner as a guardian and protector of the Santa Fe Trail. During its forty-year history, three different forts were constructed close together. The third and final Fort Union was the largest in the American Southwest, and functioned as a military garrison, territorial arsenal, and military supply depot for the Southwest.

As a military post to protect travel and settlement for forty years, Fort Union played a key role in shaping the destiny of the Southwest. During the first decade of its existence, the fort stood as the guardian of the Santa Fe Trail. The fort acted as a federal presence in the Territory of New Mexico. The Civil War added to the fort's fame at the battle of Glorieta Pass, where Union soldiers stopped the invading Southern columns. Historian Robert Utley noted, "The ruins of Fort Union graphically commemorate the achievements of the men who won the West."

On February 21, 1891, singing "There's a Land that is Fairer than This," the Army marched out of Fort Union for good. The post lapsed into ruins in the following decades. Roofs collapsed, walls of buildings slowly crumbled under the onslaught of the elements, and grass grew high on the vast parade ground.

After World War II, people in New Mexico revived an earlier campaign to create the Fort Union National Monument. New Mexicans had learned that the previous efforts failed because of the lack of local interest in the project. This time local citizens and interest groups decided to lead the movement to ultimate success. Fort Union, now in private hands, was scheduled to be demolished. With a strong will to save the historic site, local citizens took the issue to the Las Vegas-San Miguel Chamber of Commerce. On June 20,

1949, board members of the Chamber voted to seek aid from the federal government and the State of New Mexico to preserve Fort Union for all time. The Chamber's action was instrumental in creating the present-day Fort Union National Monument. We continue to be grateful for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, Fort Union National Monument is open to the public throughout the year. Interpretive programs are offered with living history talks and demonstrations on summer weekends, giving visitors the flavor of life in a frontier fort. The visitor center has displays of military equipment and clothing, a bookstore, Santa Fe Trail information and films. Using this abandoned military post, the National Park Service has established a dialogue between the past and the present. The place has been serving society as a museum of the past, a classroom of the present, and a model for the future, and it deserves the honor of a national treasure.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DORALYN GENOVA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Doralyn Genova and thank her for her dedication to Colorado as a Mesa County Commissioner. Her dedication and tireless efforts have done much to ensure a promising future for her constituents. As Doralyn celebrates her retirement, let it be known that she leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Mesa County and the State of Colorado.

A third generation Mesa County native, Doralyn graduated from Mesa State College, and ran her own business, Data Supplies. When Doralyn was elected to serve as Mesa County Commissioner in 1988, she was only the second woman elected to the position of county commissioner in Mesa County's history. She serves on Club 20's board of directors, the Governor's Interregional Council on Smart Growth, the Colorado Emergency Planning Commission, Headstart Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee, and the Mesa County Economic Development Council for Sustainable Agriculture. She also served as president of 16 Western District Counties, and was chairperson for the Land Use Committee for Colorado Counties Incorporated and serves currently as the Secretary. Doralyn's community involvement also includes membership in the Grand Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, Mesa County Women's Network, Mesa County Historical Society, Mesa County Cattleman's Association, and Mesa County League of Women Voters.

Doralyn's dedication to her community has garnered her numerous awards and recognition over the years. She was "Westpeoples" Woman of the Year in 1986 and was the first recipient of Club 20's Dan Noble Award. She has also received awards from the Colorado Division Disaster Emergency Services, Glade Park Volunteer Fire Department, Governor's Conference on Library and Information Services, and Mesa County Friends of 4-H. Most importantly, Doralyn is dedicated to her husband Mike, and sons Anthony, Nicholas, and Dominic.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Doralyn Genova before this body of Congress and this nation, and to congratulate her on an outstanding career of public service. Her selfless dedication to her community and the people of Colorado as a Mesa County Commissioner is truly remarkable. I wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING ROBERT J. RIDENOUR

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Robert J. Ridenour on receiving the 2004 Citizen of the Year award from the Bedford Rotary Club of Bedford, Pennsylvania. His efforts to preserve the history and culture of my home town of Everett have positively impacted our community and well beyond.

For most people, after a lifetime of working, the well deserved rest and relaxation that comes with retirement is usually cherished and savored. However, Robert Ridenour decided on a different path and instead chose to spend his retirement working to improve his community in any way possible.

It has been said that wisdom comes with age, and in the case of Robert Ridenour this old cliché proves to be true. In recent years he has had the foresight to dedicate his energy to preserving history, which will ground and educate younger generations while guiding them towards future progress. His tireless efforts to promote Pennsylvania's history will benefit his community for countless years to come.

Mr. Ridenour is the personification of the Bedford Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self." He has demonstrated enthusiasm and care for the county which he has served, and his spirit and dedication have infiltrated his every action. The legacy he has made is one that every American should emulate.

As a pillar of strength within his community of Bedford County, Mr. Ridenour has been a role model and leader who is admired by many. For his incomparable generosity and commitment to excellence, Robert Ridenour deserves the highest recognition.

IN HONOR OF EDIE KARAS, COMMUNITY STALWART

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my dear friend Edie Karas, one of the most dedicated and energetic community members in my Central California district, and indeed the nation and the world. A life-long resident of the Monterey Peninsula, Edie has played an active and vital role in countless civic organizations. Along with her late husband of more than 50 years, the former Monterey County Supervisor Sam Karas, Edie made up half a dynamic duo of public service. Since Sam passed away in 2003, Edie has carried on with that tradition of service to both her neighbors next door and her neighbors around the world.